

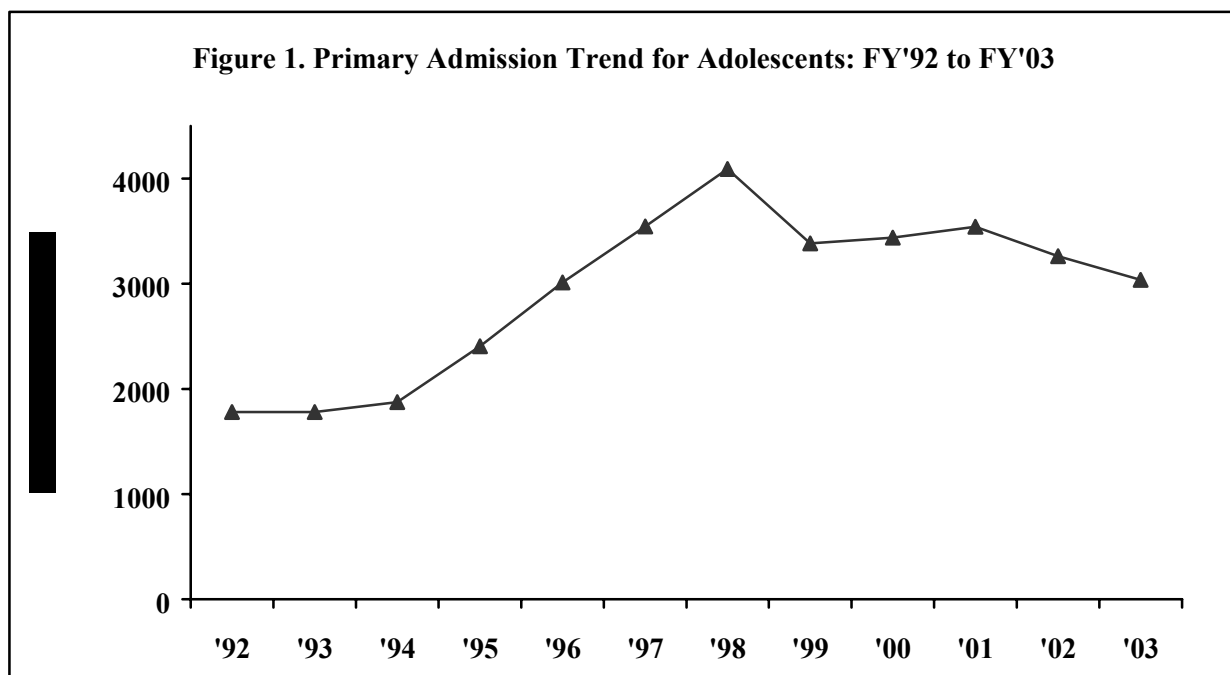
## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACT SHEET: ADOLESCENT ADMISSIONS**

### **Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services**

*This fact sheet provides information on all admissions to substance abuse treatment services. Data were reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Management Information System in FY 2003.*<sup>1</sup>

#### **Overall Treatment Admissions For Adolescents**

In FY 2003, 3,038 of the admissions to substance abuse treatment services in Massachusetts were under 18 years of age.<sup>2</sup> Figure 1 illustrates the admission trend for adolescents to all treatment programs for Fiscal Years 1992 through 2003. The decline in the number of admissions reflects a reduction in program capacity rather than a decrease in need for services.



#### **Characteristics of Adolescent Admissions**

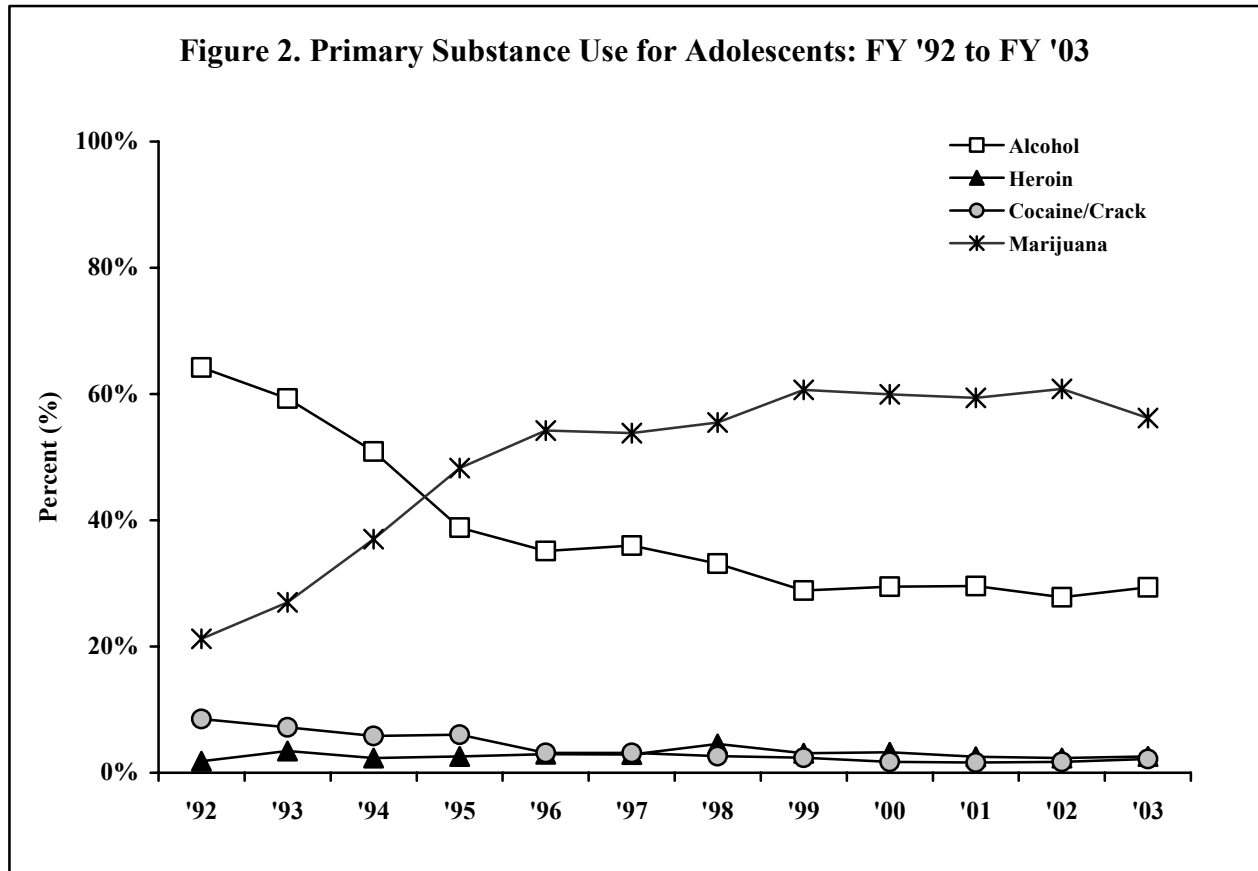
In FY 2002, adolescent admissions to substance abuse treatment reported the following characteristics:

- 72.3% (2,197) were male and 27.7% (841) were female.
- 66.1% (2,008) were White, 12.0% (363) were Black, 16.9% (514) were Latino, and 5.0% (153) were other racial categories.
- 16.9% (513) were employed.
- 0.6% (17) of admissions were homeless.<sup>3</sup>
- 39.7% (1,358) reported prior mental health treatment.
- 2.7% (83) of admissions reported injection drug use (past year).
- Average age of admissions was 15.9 years.
- The mean age of first use for alcohol was 13.0 years, with 80% of respondents reporting an age of first use between 12-15 years.
- The mean age of first use for marijuana was 12.8 years, with over 77% of respondents reporting an age of first use between 12-15 years.

### **Primary Substance of Use**

In FY 2003, Adolescent admissions reported marijuana most often as the primary drug for which they were seeking treatment. Of all admissions:

- 56.2% (1,707) reported marijuana as primary substance of use.
- 29.4% (893) reported alcohol as primary substance of use.
- 2.6% (80) reported heroin as primary substance of use.
- 2.2% (66) reported cocaine or crack as primary substance of use.

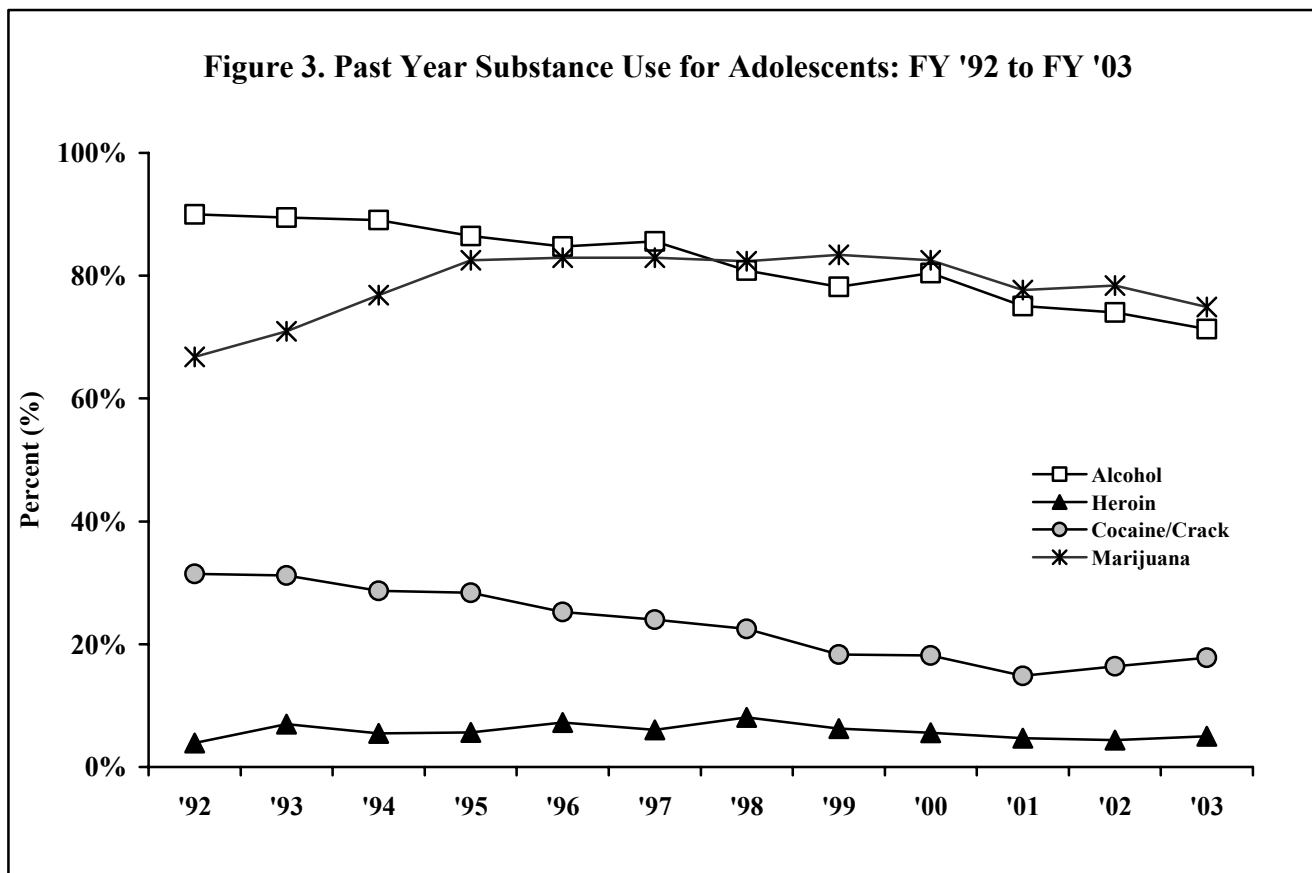


### Substance Used in Past Year

In FY 2003, at admission marijuana and alcohol remained the most reported substance used in the past year among clients under 18 years of age. The percents of past year use add up to more than 100% due to poly-drug use. Of all admissions:

- 74.9% (2,275) reported past year marijuana use.
- 71.3% (2,167) reported past year alcohol use.
- 17.8% (540) reported past year cocaine or crack use.
- 5.0% (152) reported past year heroin use.

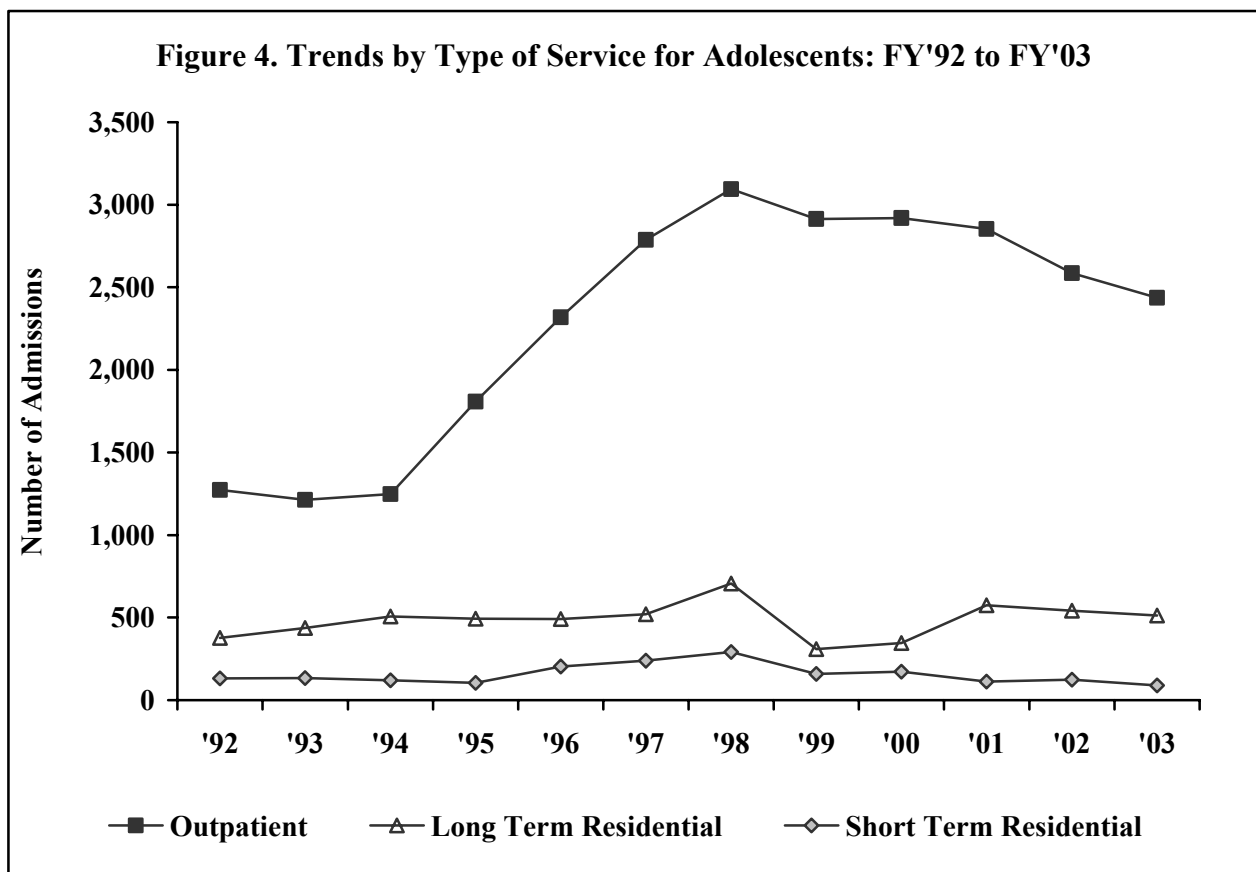
Admissions also reported past year use of the following drugs: Other opiates / synthetics which include Oxycontin (13.4%), PCP / other hallucinogens (11.9%), Amphetamines / other stimulants (9.4%), Benzodiazepines / other tranquilizers (10.3%), Barbiturates / other sedatives / hypnotics (2.2%), Inhalants (2.5%), over-the-counter drugs (4.4%), and other drugs (9.4%).



## Admissions by Services Type

In FY 2003, adolescent admissions received services in the following service modalities:

- 80.2% (2,436) received Outpatient Services including Day Treatment, 1<sup>st</sup> Offender Drunk Driver, Outpatient Counseling, Case Management, Acupuncture Detox, Criminal Justice Collaborative-Adult, Expanded Treatment Services, County Corrections, Criminal Justice Collaborative-Youth, and Narcotic Treatment.
  - Less than 0.1% of all admissions received Narcotic Treatment Services.
- 2.9% (89) were admitted to Short Term Residential (less than 30 days) Services including Acute Treatment Services and Transitional Support Services.
- 16.9% (513) were admitted to Long Term Residential (greater than 30 days) Services including Recovery Homes, Therapeutic Communities, Supportive Housing, DYS Residential, Youth Residential, Tewksbury Stabilization, Social Model, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Offender Residential.



<sup>1</sup> SAMIS data include information reported by all BSAS licensed substance abuse treatment programs for FY 1992 to FY 2003. These data include admissions to BSAS licensed programs that may be reimbursed by Medicaid or other public payers. Trends are reported beginning in FY 1992 when data were first collected in their current form.

<sup>2</sup> For more data on Substance Abuse see **MassCHIP**: <http://MassCHIP/state.us>.

<sup>3</sup> These data include the homeless status reported by all primary admissions.